

CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~/CONTROL (US OFFICIALS ONLY)

COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO. 25X1A6a

TOPIC Dessau Airfield

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED 25X1A6a

DATE OF CONTENT 14 March to 4 April 1950

DATE OBTAINED 25X1A6a DATE PREPARED 11 May 1950

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The Dessau (M 52/E 06) airfield was observed from its northern edge between 11:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on 23 March 1950, with two to three-kilometer visibility and a 1,500-meter cloud base. The airfield was still occupied by jet fighters and by conventional fighters with radial engine. About 20 jet fighters with green, tight-fitting camouflage coverings were parked in a row on the eastern edge of the field. Two other jet fighters with a silver sheen were standing on the southern taxiway, photographs of which were taken from a passing train. * The jet fighters had swept-back wings and were of the same type as those seen at the airfields of Zerbst (M 52/D 98), Alt Loennowitz (N 52/E 84) and Grossenhain (N 52/A 01). Truck and tank truck arrived at the field.

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2. Twenty-two white and four dark jet fighters with swept-back wings, called "Junghase", (sic) and 42 conventional fighters were parked at the airfield on 14 March 1950.
3. Forty-six conventional fighters and 24/jet fighters were counted at the airfield on 21 March 1950.
4. Eight trucks loaded with jet fighters (one fuselage on each truck and the wings on other trucks) were seen in Rossau (M 52/E 17) on 28 March 1950, driving in the direction of Zerbst.**

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5. Nineteen swept-back wing jet fighters, two bi-planes, two twin-engine aircraft with double rudder assembly and about 45 fighters of three different types were counted at the airfield on 31 March 1950. There was some flying, in fine weather.
6. Fifteen jet fighters and 55 to 60 other aircraft, mostly fighters, were parked at the airfield on 4 April 1950. The twin-engine aircraft were no longer there. The arrangement of the planes was again changed, as noted on each previous occasion. There was little flying, in dull weather. A squadron of 13 conventional fighters took off from the field at 10 a.m. and had not returned by nightfall.

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Comment :

The two sources agree on the occupation of the airfield by jet aircraft and conventional fighters (LA-9s). The number of jet aircraft (type 14) apparently has not changed since late February and early March of 1950. A maximum of 30 jet planes has been seen at the airfield at the same time. It is assumed that the two Dessau fighter regiments have not yet been completely re-equipped with jet planes. There were no indications that the LA-9s had been shipped away.

- * The photographs, which were badly focussed, only show that the field is occupied by **type 14 jet aircraft** in addition to other aircraft.

** This first information that jet aircraft were shipped by trucks is noteworthy. The transfer of jet planes from Dessau to Zerbst has not been confirmed.

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